

the same, and thus were unable to docket any response dates. Not having received any papers from the Office, Applicants filed a Status Inquiry in February 2002, to which the Office did not respond. *Notwithstanding the dates of the Notice to File Missing Parts and the Status Inquiry, this Office still did not mail a Notice of Abandonment until October 31, 2002.*

Upon receiving the Notice of Abandonment in November 2002, Applicants have diligently been working to prepare a proper response thereto. Shortly after receiving the Notice of Abandonment, Applicants obtained a copy of the file history, and thus, the Notice to File Missing Parts indicating that the Oath or Declaration is missing. The missing Declaration was quickly prepared for the inventors' signatures. The signatures of all six (6) inventors were earnestly sought and obtained as diligently as possible, as some of the inventors are no longer with the company to which this Application has now been assigned and had to be located, one is out of state, and one has since passed away. The missing Declaration, once fully executed, was forwarded to Applicants' counsel late last week. Applicants' counsel then earnestly prepared this Petition and the Response to Notice to File Missing Parts, and expeditiously filed the same without delay.

The required reply to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application is enclosed.

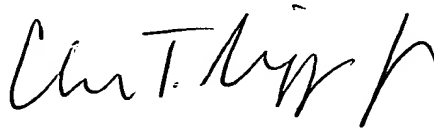
A Form PTO-2038 authorizing the Commissioner to charge the amount of \$1470.00, \$1300.00 of which is for the payment of the petition fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Account No. 16-0657.

Granting of this Petition is respectfully requested.

A postcard is enclosed evidencing receipt of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

PATULA & ASSOCIATES, P.C.



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